

## INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS SELECTION

The Board believes that materials appropriate to the needs of the school curriculum must be available to each learner and teacher. These will be furnished by the Board subject to budgetary constraints.

The task of selecting instructional materials and programs will be the responsibility of the appropriate certified personnel and approved by the superintendent or designee.

### INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL CRITERIA

Because instructional programs and materials are of great importance, only those that meet the following criteria will be approved by the Board:

1. They must present balanced views of international, national, and local issues and problems of the past, present and future.
2. They must provide materials that stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic, and ethical values.
3. They must help learners develop abilities in critical reading and thinking.
4. They must help develop and foster an appreciation of cultural diversity and development in the United States and throughout the world.
5. They must provide for all learners an effective basic education that does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, gender identity, or physical disabilities.
6. They must allow sufficient flexibility for meeting the special needs of individual learners and groups of learners.

The District will not select obscene instructional matter or materials. For the purposes of this policy, obscene matter or materials is defined as material:

- The dominant theme of which, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest, which is a shameful or morbid interest in nudity, sex, or excretion, which goes substantially beyond customary limits of candor in description or representation of such matters; and
- Patently offensive because it affronts contemporary community standards relating to the description or representation of sado-masochistic abuse or sexual conduct; and
- Lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

This policy is published on the district's website and/or annually published in the district's designated newspaper.

~~In the belief that the success of educational programs is dependent to a degree upon the quantity and quality of books, musical literature, and other educational media made available to students, it is the policy of the schools to implement the philosophy and objectives of education in the district.~~

### POLICY OF SELECTION

~~We believe that the School Board is responsible to the people and therefore must reflect the opinion of the community. We feel that this responsibility is best satisfied by:~~

~~Providing materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities, and maturity levels of the pupils served.~~

~~Providing materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, worthy use of leisure time, and ethical standards.~~

Providing a background of information, which will enable pupils to make intelligent judgements in their daily life.

Providing materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop the practice of critical reading and thinking.

Providing materials representative of the many ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.

Placing principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the uses of the school.

### **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

The educational goals of the local school district, individual student learning methods, teaching approaches, curricular needs, faculty and student needs, and existing materials must be considered in the selection of new textbooks, library books, technology audio-visual resources and other updated materials.

The content of the material should:

— Contribute to the objectives of the instructional program.

— Be appropriate to the level of the student.

— Reflect the problems, aspirations, attitudes and ideals of a particular social group in a pluralistic society.

— Have artistic, historic and/or literary qualities or scientific accuracy.

— Stimulate creativity.

— Relate to today's world.

Gift materials should be judged by the criteria listed in this section and should be accepted or rejected on the basis of those criteria.

### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTION OF MATERIALS**

The Board of Education is legally responsible for all matters relating to the operation of the Brookings Public School District.

The responsibility for the selection of instructional materials is delegated to the district's professionally trained personnel. Selection of materials involves many people; principals, teachers, supervisors, and librarians. The process of selection should be expedited by reviews, recommended lists, standard bibliographic tools, or personal examination.

### **INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Materials should present a fair view concerning the problems and issues of our time, international, national, and local. Books and other materials shall not be proscribed or removed from the library or classroom because of partisan approval or disapproval.

Two basic factors, truth and art, will be considered in the selection of materials. The first is factual accuracy, balance, authoritativeness, and integrity. The second is quality of stimulating presentation, imagination, vision, creativeness, style appropriate to idea, vitality, and distinction.

### **RECONSIDERATION OF MATERIALS**

While no parent or group of parents has the right to determine the reading matter or musical literature for students other than their own child, the board does recognize the right of an individual parent to request that the child not have to read a given book or perform a specific musical selection, provided a written request is made to the appropriate building principal.

Requests for the reconsideration of books or other materials used in the school must be submitted in writing to the principal on a form prescribed by the administration. Objections thus submitted will be considered by a committee consisting of two (2) teachers and one (1) librarian for library materials (print or non-print), or three

(3) teachers for other than library materials (print or nonprint). The committee, appointed by the principal, shall review the material and judge whether it conforms to the above stated principles. The committee will submit its report, in writing, to the principal, with a copy to the district's superintendent. This report must be completed in thirty (30) days from the time the complaint is received. The person submitting the complaint will be given the opportunity to discuss it with the committee if so desired. Appeals from the decision may be made through the principal, to the central administration, to the School Board for the final decision.

**Legal References:**                    [SDCL 22-24-27](#) (Obscenity and public indecency - definition of terms)  
[SDCL 22-24-55](#) (Restrict access to obscene materials)

**Cross References:**                **[KLB - Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials](#)**

**Adopted:**                    01/09/1978 ~~(5148)~~  
**Revised:**                    03/14/1994  
**Revised:**                    08/08/2005  
**Reviewed:**                07/15/2013  
**Notification:**            07/15/2024